



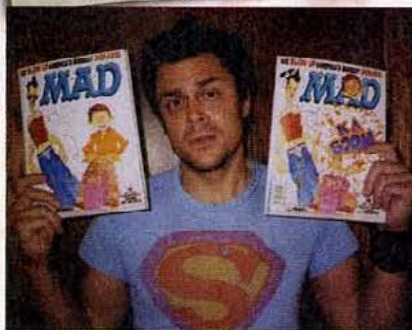
THE BEST OF THE LETTERS PAGE

SCHOOL OF HARD FROM MAD #412 KNOXVILLE

John,
June 22, 2001
Am I the first pseudo-celebrity
to stoop as low as to send a picture
of himself holding his ~~own~~ cover
of mad magazine in hopes of getting
a free three year subscription? Jesus H. Christ,
I hope so. Thanks for putting me
on the cover.
Sincerely,
Johnny Knoxville

P.S. Now where the hell is my
subscription?

Johnny Knoxville
L.A., Ca.



Jackass star Johnny Knoxville
and MAD #407

Jackass Boy — Yes, you are the first pseudo-celebrity (some might say the cheapest!) to stoop so low as to send in your own picture to wrangle a free subscription. But hey, a deal is a deal regardless how ill conceived! A three-year subscription is on its way to the Knoxville residence!

—Ed.

MORON MAIL FROM MAD #325

Hey! What's up with this "Fa fa fa" thing? Is it supposed to be some kind of snappy comeback or something?

Mike Beck
Akron, OH

For your information, the use of "Fa fa fa" has a proud and rich tradition in literature, cinema and comedy. Who can forget that great World War II movie, "A Bridge Too Fa Fa Far," George Orwell's classic novel "Animal Fa Fa Farm" and Gary Larson's hilarious daily comic strip "The Fa Fa Fa Side"! So, as you can see by this response, there is nothing snappy about "Fa fa fa" whatsoever!

—Ed.

MR. AND MISSIVES FROM MAD #397

I think that you should not have a letters page anymore. It is the only boring thing in your magazine that is not cool. Every time I get your magazine, I skip that part. Please take it out. Then your magazine would be 200% coolness!

Perry Clouse
Marion, IA

Perrywinkle — You've really put us on the horns of a dilemma. We have long since bemoaned the poor quality of most letters sent to us and have frequently toyed with the notion of doing away with the letters page. But then a well-reasoned, articulate letter such as yours crosses our desk, renewing our faith and giving us hope that the letters page can and should continue. On behalf of letters page readers everywhere we thank you. It's just a shame you don't read the letters page to learn of the effect your magnificent missive had!

—Ed.

THE ANSWER FROM MAD #390 MAD

In yet another installment of our much beloved feature answering letters of other magazines, we give you this pearl from *Spin* magazine's August 1999 issue.



Frankly, I am disappointed. Do you know what is bothering me? Narcissistic punkrocker critics who constantly put down any band/group/singer that have anything to do with pop music. I personally adore punk music; my favorite band is Rancid. But, do you know what? My second favorite band is 'N Sync! I have reached an impasse on my journey to defend 'N Sync, and groups like them, simply because no one will listen to my logic. Do you ever stop to listen to 'N Sync? Or do you automatically laugh them off? Do you realize they actually have talent? You need to stop judging 'N Sync by their screaming fans (who, most of the time, only worship 'N Sync for their bodies and bleached hair) and start judging them by their actual musical ability, like their true fans do. Just because they happen to have synchronized dance moves does not mean that they aren't good. If 'N Sync: B*Witched, etc. are really that bad, people wouldn't buy their albums, just the posters, so they could look at them. Think about that.

L.S., Annapolis, MD

L.S.— Ooo, good argument. Americans are well known for not buying crap! It's their insatiable passionate yearning for high quality that's led to the success of: Broadway's *Miss Saigon*, Jenna Elfman, The Waterboy, MAD on CD-ROM, MAD on T.V., MAD Magazine, T.G.I. Friday's, Chicken Soup for the Soul, Family Circus (excluding the ones that Billy draws), Sinbad, AOL, Pokémon, Hanson, Richard Simmons' Deal-A-Meal, Richard Simmons' Sweatin' to the Oldies and the Hard Rock Café!

—Ed.

Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

FROM
MAD #384

I'd like to make a dumb wish in hopes that I will get some kind of response. I'm in eighth grade now. Back in sixth grade I liked a girl named Kathryn. She hated me and she still does. I had a crush on her for a couple of years. I thought of liking a different girl, but no girl interested me the way Kathryn did. I looked around for somebody else to like, but nobody could replace her. Kathryn was just too nice (even though she hated me). Then in December of 1998 a sequence of events occurred that led me to a very pretty and very sweet girl named Kristin. She just happened to be Kathryn's twin sister. She hates me too. My dumb wish is that you print my story in your magazine because I'm just stupid that way.

Martin Nguyen
Address withheld upon request

Marty — We love these kinds of letters at *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™*. Quick and easy to fulfill and dumb! We can knock off early and beat the crowds to happy hour at the tanning salon! We hope that by publishing your letter and making your dumb wish come true, Kathryn and Kristin will see you in an entirely different light. If this happens with you and the twins, we suspect the next letter you'll be writing will be to *Penthouse* and not *MAD*! Keep us up to date!

—Ed

"A MAD LOOK AT THE HOMELESS"

From MAD #333

I am one of your newer readers and I recently purchased issue #331. I am commenting on your "A MAD Look at the Homeless." I don't think that homeless people are very funny. I think it is very sad that many unfortunate people cannot have a home and look clean, etc. I like all the other issues and I decided to subscribe to *MAD*, but this section really disappoints me. I hope that you do not print anything like this in the future.

Rob Lelewski
Rochester, NY

Rochester Rob — We've been having trouble with "A MAD Look at the Homeless" writer/artist Sergio Aragones lately, and your letter wasn't the first we've received. Yours proved to be the breaking point, however, and we had no alternative but to let him go. Ironically, after losing his job, Sergio also lost his house. Now he doesn't think there's anything funny about the homeless either! Ahh, the poetic wheels of justice turn slowly but surely! Thanks for writing.

—Ed

MAD HELPS STUDENT ADJUST

FROM MAD #334

I recently received an Alfred E. Neuman pin. As I tried to get it on my shirt, it gave me time to reflect. Two years ago I was a model student. My grades were excellent. I made the honor roll six times. Then I subscribed to *MAD*. Now, I'm scheduled to see the school psychiatrist three times a week. Thanks!

John Lowenthal
Austin, TX

Johnno — We've let you down and we apologize...most of our subscribers end up going FIVE times a week! Thanks for writing, and don't forget the lithium!

—Ed

REVENGE OF THE NERD?

FROM MAD #334

You have made fun of many things, but in issue #334 you went too far. A subtitle on the cover reads "Comic Book Fans (Geeks on Parade!)" This statement is probably the worst *MAD* has ever made. Comic book fans are not geeks and in fact do have a life. I myself am a comic book fan and I am not a geek, dweeb, nerd or whatever you want to call me. I hope you think more next time before you print a statement like this. You just lost yourself a subscriber!

Beau McRae
Colorado Springs, CO

We stand corrected. At no time did we mean to imply that all comic book fans are geeks, dweebies or nerds...just comic book fans named "Beau"! See ya, loser!

—Ed

SPY VS. ORIGAMI

FROM MAD #386

If you're like us, you thought origami was a tasty Italian luncheon meat! In fact, it is the delicate Oriental art of paper folding. Reader Sara Hanley of Los Angeles, CA recently sent in these two *Spy Vs. Spy* origami which we barely managed to save from the mouth of Co-editor Nick Meglin, who mistook them for a tasty Italian luncheon meat! Thanks, Sara!



COMING UP



THE VERY BEST OF OUR WORST STUFF FROM PAST ISSUES!

OUR SPOOK-TACULAR HALLOWEEN ISSUE



INCLUDING:

OUR SPECIAL "BITTERMEN" JACK-O-LANTERN STENCIL!

PARODIES OF SCARY MOVIES!

FREE CANDY!*

*NOT FROM US, BUT, YOU KNOW, IF YOU GO OUT TRICK OR TREATING!

PLUS
SPY VS. SPY!
MONROE!
AND MUCH MORE!

RUN OUT AND
BUY IT ON
OCTOBER 18TH!

(But wait half an hour if you've just eaten a bunch of candy.)